

## UNIVERSITY EXTENSION AT ACADIA.

We have got a university at Wolfville, haven't we? That is what is told us by our legislators and what parliament says I suppose must be so. But I have failed to perceive any material advance along university lines. I had hoped that ere this we would be able to point to some plan or plans by which we could say that the extended work done at Acadia might justify the change in name. What's in a name? Very little in this age of advance. Unless there is some kind of an existence to which the name may be truthfully and gracefully applied, the name will have very little attraction.

Well, we have a university, but is it in line with the universities of America? Does it take hold of University problems and plans? It does not seem so. The question before every university to-day is university extension. It is a question which affects not only the university proper but also its constituency. Cast an eye among the universities of the United States and Canada and nearly all of them are assimilating the idea and putting it into shape. Now are we as Baptists going to allow these universities to step ahead of us in this important line? No, a thousand times, no. If for no other reason than to keep our educational policy on a par with that of other denominations I would urge upon the governors of Acadia to take this question up at once and put it into practical shape.

But there are far weightier reasons than denominational pride to be advanced. I doubt not that every graduate of Acadia has felt the influence of the great gulf that is to-day fixed between the university and its constituency. Why is it? Simply, it seems to me, because all the work of our institutions is done on the hill. If a person has not the inclination to go there or perhaps through force of circumstances is not able to go, then there is no connecting link and the gulf widens. There is very little sympathy between the mass of Baptists of these provinces and the university, and until that evil is eradicated the mission of the Acadia University will not and cannot be accomplished. What is there to arouse the enthusiasm of the Baptists who live at a distance from Acadia? What is there to draw their attention there? Literally nothing. This is a state of affairs which must be changed if our university is to live and thrive.

Following close upon this comes the question of the support which Acadia gets from her constituency. The complaint comes with ever increasing force, "Acadia University does not get her proportion of the benevolent funds of the denomination." How can it be otherwise under existing circumstances? When money is called for by the churches, our educational institutions are rarely thought of, unless it is specially referred to by the pastor, and then the impression lasts about as long as he is talking of it. Acadia University has been slowly but surely drawing away from the attention and sympathy of our people and the inevitable result is a dire lack of financial support.

Just a word in reference to the graduates. Who should be in closer contact and in greater sympathy with Acadia than her graduates? They leave her halls with a profound respect and love for her but when other duties engage their attention what is there to ensure the continuance of this interest? The only thing that I can see is the anniversary in June. There is no way by which they can keep in close, warm touch with the institution, and consequently the university suffers.

Now, what is the remedy? One grand way out, it seems to me, is by university extension. That will counteract the evils mentioned and many others that are extant, and will create such a force for good as has never yet gone out from Acadia. Far be it from me to dictate, but why not adopt plans which have been successfully tried in other institutions? Let a number of non-resident courses be mapped out by our professors, which shall embrace the realm of classics, science, mathematics, philosophy, and any other which may be deemed beneficial, and at the completion of the course, on the payment of a fee sufficiently high to make the degree respectable, give the degrees of M.A., Ph.B, Ph.D., and others known to the literary world. There are many graduates of Acadia with whom I have talked who would hail with delight any move in this direction, so that when seeking a higher degree they would not invariably have to go to some American institution.

Then classes could be organized in our towns and villages, with an examiner appointed by the university, who would direct them along some line of study laid down by the authorities at Acadia. Then when they had passed satisfactory examinations and had paid